

# ON THE TRAIL TO VISION 2020

Issue One, Jan 1995

*Presented in February, 1993 by the citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth, VISION 2020. The Sustainable Region was unanimously adopted by Regional Council as a guide to all regional decision making.*

*Has anything occurred since 1993, to try and make the vision a reality or has it sat on a shelf collecting dust?*

*As promised, the VISION 2020 reports have been put to good use. Hamilton-Wentworth has started the trek along the trail to VISION 2020. This newsletter summarizes only a few of the more exciting projects.*



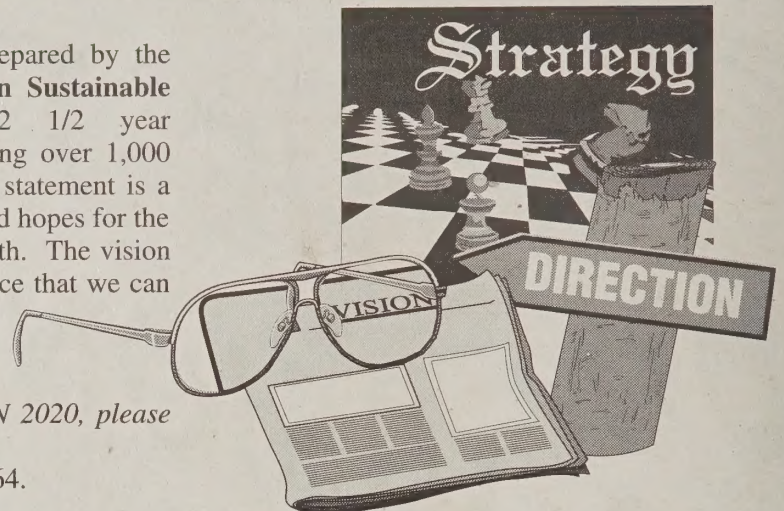


# VISION 2020: The Sustainable Region

Vision 2020 describes our community in the year 2020, if the decisions affecting our community begin to follow the principles of sustainable development. It describes a community that includes a system of connected and protected natural areas, swimming where it is currently banned, a new transportation system, a different form to the urban area, a diversified and environmentally friendly economy, community participation in decision making, a strong local agricultural sector, and many other changes to our community.

Vision 2020 was prepared by the **Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development** after a 2 1/2 year consultation process involving over 1,000 fellow citizens. The vision statement is a presentation of our values and hopes for the future of Hamilton-Wentworth. The vision is a shared destination, a place that we can walk towards.

To receive a copy of VISION 2020, please contact: Mark Bekkering at (905)546-2195, Fax: 546-4364.



## Regional Official Plan



On June 7, 1994 Regional Council adopted a new Official Plan called, **Towards a Sustainable Region**. Based on the principles and values of sustainable development, the Regional Official Plan is a key instrument in the implementation of the directions outlined in Vision 2020. The Official Plan is the Region's map for

identifying the trail to Vision 2020. It provides the navigator with directions to get from our current position to the summit - The Sustainable Community of Vision 2020.

For further information, please contact: Gary Wilson at (905)546-4320, Fax: 546-4364.

## A Model for the World!

AGENDA 21, developed by the United Nations at its *Conference on Environment and Development (The Earth Summit)* held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992, is a global plan of action to confront the most pressing environmental, economic, social, and health problems facing our planet. In order to promote Agenda 21 amongst local authorities, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) organized the **Local Agenda 21 Model Community Programme**.

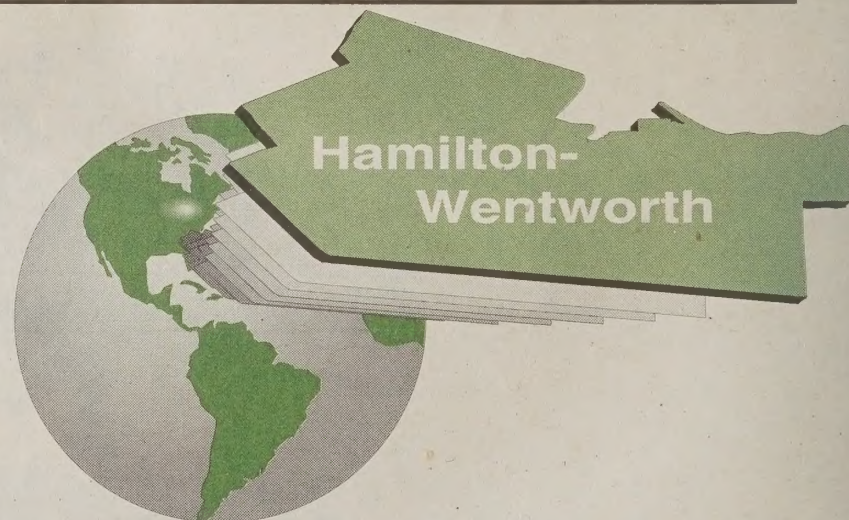
Under this programme Hamilton-Wentworth was selected as the only Canadian community and as one of only 21 communities around the world to lead the way in local efforts to implement Agenda 21. We have been given both a large challenge and very prestigious distinction. While serving as a model, communities around the world will be looking to Hamilton-Wentworth for successful methods for creating a sustainable community.

This honour recognizes Hamilton-Wentworth's commitment to a future based on achieving a balance between social and environmental needs and economic development. The projects described in this newsletter reveal that commitment and show how we are trying to find and build the trail to Vision 2020.

Joining Hamilton-Wentworth as a model community are the communities of **Quito, Ecuador; Santos, Brazil; Hat Yai,**

**Thailand; Manus Province, Papua New Guinea; Hamilton, New Zealand; Johnstonshire, Australia; and Buga, Columbia.** Other communities from countries such as, **India, England, South Africa, and Kenya** will be selected in the near future.

For further information, please contact: Mark Bekkering at (905)546-2195, Fax: 546-4364.





# Sustainable Community Decision Making Guide

As directed by Regional Council the, **Staff Working Group on Sustainable Development** has developed a process to incorporate the concept of sustainable development into the decision making process of Regional Government.

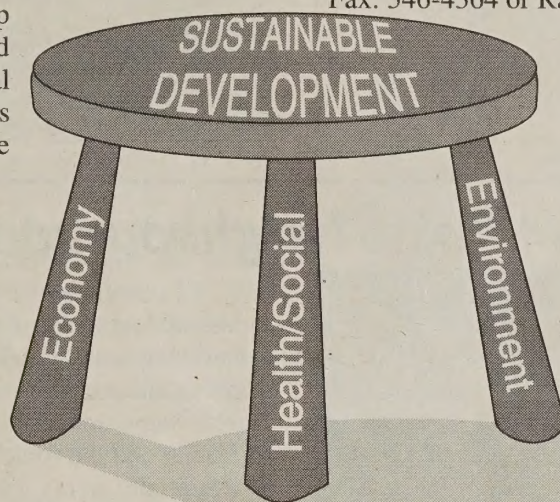
The Sustainable Community Decision Making Guide is a simple three step evaluation process that assists staff and elected officials in evaluating regional initiatives for consistency with the directions of creating a sustainable community. The steps are:

- (1) **assessment of the recommended initiative's fit with the goals of Vision 2020;**
- (2) **balancing the three principal factors of sustainable development - the economy, the environment, and health/social factors in the implementation plan; and**
- (3) **preparation of Council reports to include the sustainable community implications.**

On August 16, 1994 Regional Council directed staff to use the guide as a tool to assist in the evaluation of all new and existing policies, programmes, and projects. This will ensure that Regional decision

making incorporates the principles and values of a sustainable community. The guide will help keep the Region moving along, in the right direction, on the trail to Vision 2020.

*For further information, please contact either: Maureen Wilson at (905)546-4225, Fax: 546-4364 or Raffaella Cowell at (905)546-2634, Fax: 546-2340.*



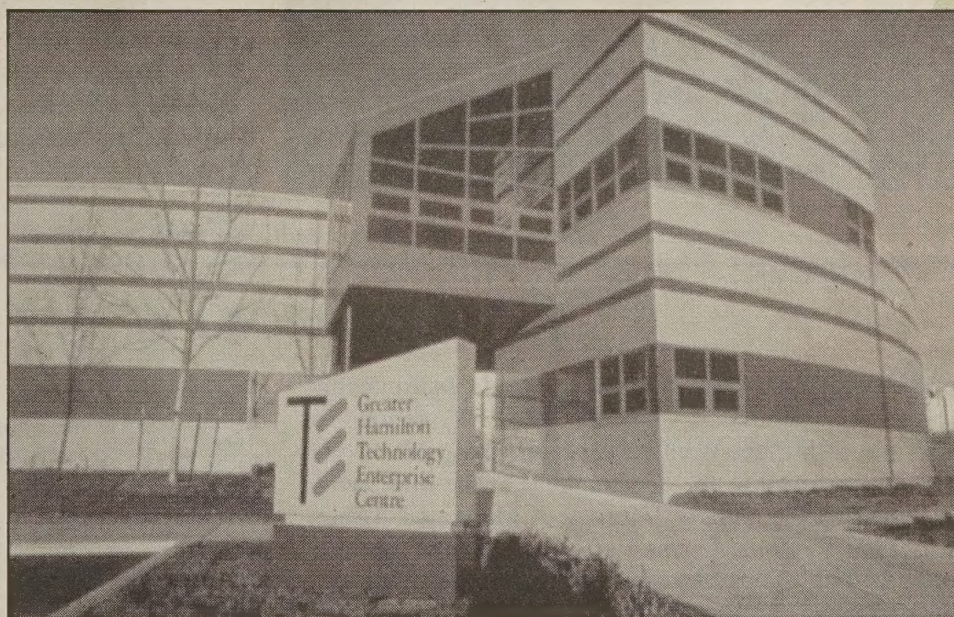
## FACT BOOK ON HEALTH, 1994

This report is a comprehensive compendium of health indicators for the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. It includes information on health status, determinants of health, and a description of health care services in Hamilton-Wentworth.

For further information, please contact:  
The Health Priorities Analysis Unit at  
(905)546-3620.

## Greater Hamilton Technology Enterprise Center (GHTEC)

Opened in the fall of 1993, the GHTEC was built by the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth and is operated on their behalf by the Business Advisory Centre. Its purpose is to serve as an incubator for new entrepreneurs, especially those looking to develop new high technology businesses. Although tenants pay market rents, they share the costs of administrative services, such as, receptionist, photocopier, fax, and typing. In addition they have access to the latest business know-how through "mentoring" from over 200 specialists who are voluntarily loaned by larger, established firms.



Over 80% of all new businesses fail within the first five years. But new businesses launched in incubators, like

GHTEC, reverse that statistic with almost 80% of new businesses succeeding if begun with the assistance of the many programs offered at GHTEC by the Business Advisory Centre. Construction of the GHTEC is a key step in the Region's goals to diversify the economy, support local business, and encourage the development of environmentally friendly industry.

*For further information, please contact: Bill Moffat at (905)689-2400, Fax: 689-2200.*



## Protecting Environmentally Significant Areas

In October 1993, Council approved the Terms of Reference for the **Environmentally Significant Areas Impact Evaluation Group** (ESAIEG) which is a volunteer body organized to provide professional advice to staff regarding potential development impacts on Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs). People volunteering are those with expertise in fields, such as, botany, zoology, and biology. With their expert advice, it is hoped that adverse effects due to land use changes will be avoided on ESAs.

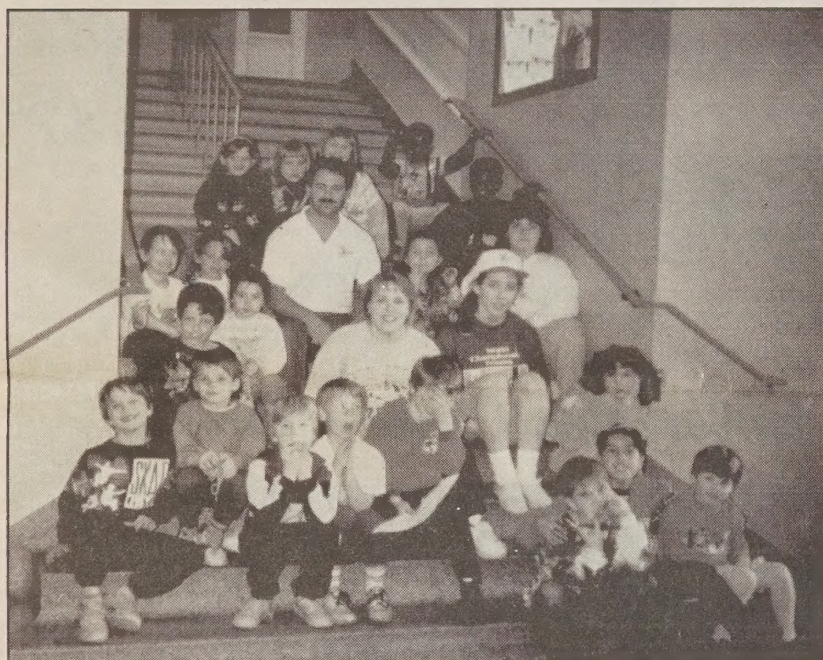
*For further information, please contact:*  
Norman Ragetlie at (905)546-2153, Fax: 546-4364.

### **STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, 1994 UPDATE**

First prepared in 1990, the State of the Environment (SOE) was initiated to highlight key environmental concerns and conditions in Hamilton-Wentworth. The report provides a basis for defining Regional policy objectives and potential initiatives for improving the natural environment. On August 16, 1994 Regional Council approved an updated version of the SOE.

*For further information, please contact:*  
Doug Frost at (905)546-2193, Fax: (905)546-4364.

## Crown Point Neighbourhood



Located in the east end of Hamilton, next to the Bayfront industrial area, the Crown Point neighbourhood has started a remarkable transformation where residents are working hard to improve their health and quality of life. Supported by the Public Health Department and funded primarily by the Ontario Ministry of Health and the Charles Johnson Charity Foundation, this project is essentially about helping people work together to solve their problems and create an improved quality of life. The people who live in the neighbourhood have become the decision makers for their community. Programs such as Block Parent and Neighbourhood Watch programs have been established while fitness classes have been started, as have after school social recreational programs for kids.

The activities occurring in the Crown Point neighbourhood highlight that the Vision 2020 goal, "all of us take responsibility for our health, citizenship, and public decision-making", is a realistic and achievable part of the desired future Hamilton-Wentworth. It is an important step in leading along the trail to Vision 2020.

*For further information, please contact:* Nancy Voorberg at (905) 628-6325.

## Renaissance Project

Initiated in the Spring of 1993 by the Regional Chairman, this group was asked to identify a detailed plan of action for revitalization of the Hamilton-Wentworth economy. Over 100 people were directly involved in the development of the plan, while funding was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs. On November 1, 1994 Regional Council adopted the final report of the Renaissance Project as its strategic plan for the Economic Development Department.

The Renaissance report provides some very detailed plans of action for implementing the general directions of Vision 2020 in the areas of economic development, job creation, and job training. The goals of the Renaissance Project are: to create societal wealth; to create jobs or other meaningful means of livelihood; and to incorporate sustainable development principles in community economic development activities.

*For further information, please contact:* Neil Everson at (905)546-2669,

### **1994 Region of Hamilton-Wentworth Environmental Commitment Award Winners**

#### **GOLD -**

**Hamilton District Autobody Repair Assoc.**

#### **Silver -**

**Waxman Resources Inc.**

#### **Bronze -**

**Careers for a Better World -  
Ecolutions Magazine**



# The Annual VISION 2020 Sustainable Community Day

**W**hat actions are occurring to move Hamilton-Wentworth along the trail to Vision 2020? Is Hamilton-Wentworth really becoming a model community for the world?

On June 11, 1994 over 1,200 citizens took the opportunity to find the answers to these and other questions at the Region's first Annual VISION 2020 Sustainable Community Day. Organized and operated by a large group of dedicated citizens, the day was an exciting event where people learned more

about the many progressive activities occurring in our community.

From local businesses to environmental organizations, over 125 groups participated in the day by either being an exhibitor in the open house, sponsoring an event, hosting a workshop, providing transportation, or by opening their facilities to the public. Although the Hamilton Convention Centre was the focus for the day, activities occurred at six other sites around the Region.



*Colin Isaacs from the Ontario Round Table on the Environment and the Economy and Michael Manolson from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives provided the keynote address.*

## Exhibits For Vision 2020

The VISION 2020 Open House with exhibits from 110 local community groups, businesses, the Area Municipalities, Provincial agencies, and all Regional Departments;

- ten educational workshops sponsored by local community groups;
- a free bus tour of the harbour, sponsored by the Bay Area Restoration Council and Laidlaw Transit Ltd., where people learned about the many activities occurring to clean up the harbour;
- public tours of the Woodward Avenue Wastewater and Water Treatment Facility and charity fundraising barbecue at the Hamilton Steam Museum;
- educational and fun filled events for children put on by the Ecowise Project from McMaster University;
- open houses by the Hamilton Board of Education, Neighbour to Neighbour, and the Red Hill Family Centre;
- auto emission testing by the Hamilton Automobile Club;
- live entertainment by the Enviro-theatre Group from McMaster University;
- the initiation of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority and Phillip Environment's three year naturalization program at Confederation Park; and
- presentations by Michael Manolson from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, Grant Hopcroft from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and Colin Isaacs from the Ontario Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.

## PLAN TO ATTEND

**The Second Annual  
VISION 2020  
Sustainable Community Day**

9:00am to 9:00pm  
Friday, November 3, 1995  
&  
Saturday, November 4, 1995

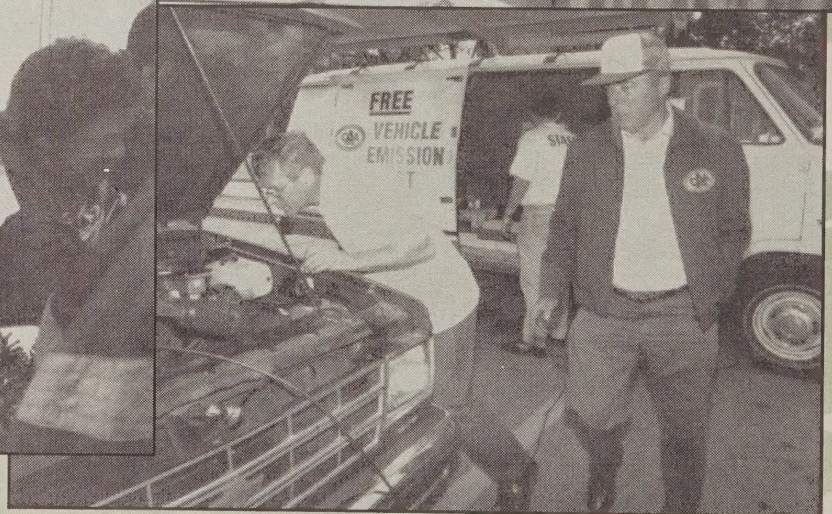
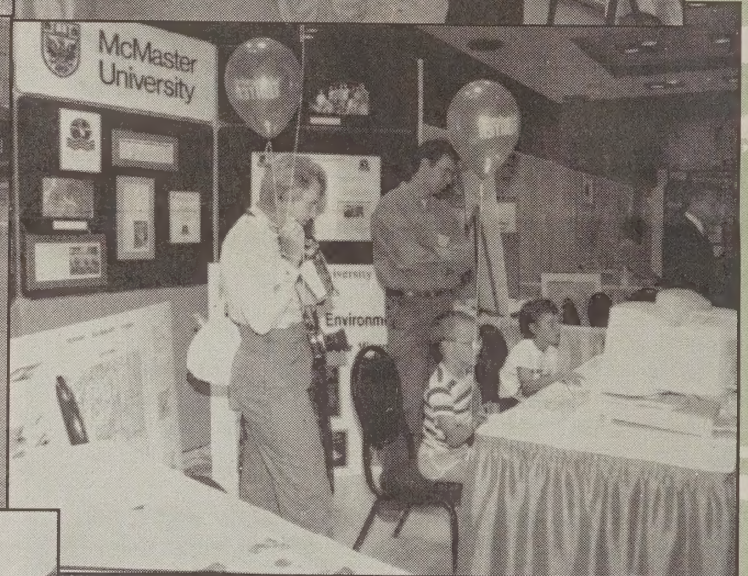
**Hamilton Convention Centre  
For Further Information Contact**

Mark Bekkering at 546-2195  
or  
Mary Ellen Scanlon at 546-4348

Fax: 546-4364  
Email: markb@hookup.net



# *The Annual VISION 2020 Sustainable Community Day*





## Reducing Water Consumption

In January, 1992 the Region purchased 15,000 home water conservation kits. For sale to Regional residents. When properly installed the various water saving devices can reduce home consumption by up to 20 percent. Just over 11,000 of these \$10 kits have been sold to interested residents.

*For further information, please contact:*  
The Region's Finance Department at (905)546-4270.

### **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

In 1994, the Region's household hazardous waste depot was taken to the community. The result was the participation of 9,600 households and collection of 192,000 litres of household hazardous waste. This was an 33% increase from 1993.

*For further information, please contact:*  
**The Solid Waste Hotline at (905)546-4417**

### **GREEN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

The Green Community Initiative starting in 1995, will be contributing to the 'greening' of Hamilton-Wentworth through environmental projects which reduce waste, water, and energy consumption. Green projects are being developed for homeowners, schools, and businesses.

*For further information, please contact:*  
**The Green Community Initiative  
at (905)546-2501.**

## Child Care

Hamilton-Wentworth's Social Services Department and Public Health Department have a long history of trying to ensure there is an adequate supply of child care spaces and the best care possible is provided for children. Through the Social Services department the Region subsidizes day care for many citizens and operates its own integrated day care centre. Consultation and educational support for child care providers is provided in all types of child care settings.

*For further information, please contact:*  
Jane Soldera (905) 546-2399

## A Greenlands System

Initiated in 1993 with base data collection, this project sets out to implement the Vision 2020 direction that there be a system of connected and protected natural areas threading its way through the entire Region. Currently the Region is initiating discussions with other groups, such as, the Conservation Authorities, Area Municipalities, and landowners to develop a plan of action for creating the desired system.

*For further information, please contact:*  
Norman Ragetlie at (905)546-2153, Fax: 546-4364.

## School Child Nourishment Task Force

Vision 2020 describes a Hamilton-Wentworth where, "everyone has adequate food". The Region's Public Health Department and Social Services Department, along with a number of community groups are already delivering a number of programs which try to ensure no one in our community goes hungry. One recent effort in this direction is the School Child Nourishment Task Force.

Established in September, 1992 the Task Force was mandated to investigate school food programs in Hamilton-Wentworth. On October 4, 1994 the final report of this task force was presented to Regional Council. It contained nine recommendations including one recommendation that the Region encourage and support community groups to seek funding for local student nourishment programs through the province's "Child Nutrition Initiative" program. Successful implementation of these nine recommendations will help address the needs of our community's youth and ensure they are able to follow along on the trail to Vision 2020.

*For further information, please contact:*  
Ann Louise Heron: (905) 546-3520

### **WASTE REDUCTION**

86% or around 150,000 of the Region's households have access to the Blue Box Recycling Programme. Almost 30% of the Region's 120,000 single detached and townhouse housing units have a compost unit in their yard. It is estimated that almost 30,000 tonnes of waste is diverted, through these programmes, from the landfill site.

*For further information, please contact:*  
**The Recycling Hotline at (905)546-2157.**

## Cleaning Up The Harbour

The major contribution by the Region to the implementation of the Remedial Action Plan for Hamilton Harbour is the construction of combined sewer overflow tanks. At a total cost of \$17 million, three of these tanks have already been built. When there is a large storm, these tanks intercept and hold sewage and rain water. What used to go straight into the Harbour during a storm is now held and treated later. At a cost of \$25 million, a fourth, and the largest overflow tank, is being built to intercept sewage overflow to Cootes Paradise. This tank which will be completely

underground, will be approximately 8 stories deep and cover an area equal to two hockey rinks. The cost of the project is being shared between the Regional, Provincial, and Federal Governments. On October 18, 1994 Regional Council approved hiring a consultant to begin design on a fifth tank, to be located in Hamilton's Eastport Park. The estimated cost of this tank is \$11 million.

*For further information, please contact:*  
Jim Halliday at (905) 546-4407, Fax: (905) 546-4473



# Regional Transportation Review

## TAXI SCRIP PROGRAM

On September 20, 1994 Regional Council approved a new program that will provide greater travel flexibilities for people with disabilities. This new transportation service provides a 50% subsidy to individuals with disabilities who wish to travel by taxi. This means they will have the opportunity to travel on a spur of the moment rather than booking a DARTS bus a day or two in advance.

For further information, please contact:

**Accessible Transportation Services at (905)528-4200 x440.**

The Region's Transportation Department is currently undertaking an extensive Transportation Review. When completed the Review will outline the transportation services and policies required to achieve Vision 2020.

The Review will provide direction to balance Regional spending between roads, parking, public transportation, pedestrian and bicycling facilities. Also being examined are potential policy changes for more effective integration of future land use strategies and transportation services. This project provides an additional foothold along the trail, moving the Region one step closer to Vision 2020.

*For further information, please contact:*  
**Regional Transportation Review at (905)528-4200 x211, Fax: 528-6050.**

**The Hamilton Street Railway (HSR) is replacing its diesel buses with buses powered by low polluting natural gas. HSR currently operates 40 of its 210 vehicles on natural gas, with the conversion of the entire fleet expected by the year 2005.**

## REGIONAL BICYCLE COMMUTER STUDY

Tasks successfully implemented include:

- \* the conversion of an abandoned rail line into a 6.5 kilometre trail for crossing the escarpment;
- \* the addition of 2.5 kilometres of paved bike lanes on Wilson Street between west Hamilton and Ancaster; and
- \* the introduction of over 150 bicycle rack spaces for cyclists to park their bicycles in downtown Hamilton.

For further information, please contact:  
**The Bike program at (905)546-2453 (BIKE).**

## Privatizing the Operation of the Sewage Treatment Plant

Hamilton-Wentworth and Philip Utilities Management Corporation have entered into a 10 year joint venture that will see Philip operate the Region's water and wastewater treatment facilities. This agreement provides Philip with the opportunity to establish its credentials, in order to compete in the lucrative international environmental services market. Philip will use the plant as a training facility and a model for facilities it hopes to build around the world. It is expected that through this agreement new technologies will be developed and over 100 new jobs will be created in Hamilton-Wentworth.

*For further information, please contact:*  
Jim Halliday at (905)546-4407, Fax: 546-4473.

## Comprehensive Municipal Pollution Prevention Plan

**T**he Region, in cooperation with the Federal and Provincial Governments, is undertaking a Comprehensive Municipal Pollution Prevention Project. The focus of the project is to set out an action plan, for the Region to incorporate pollution prevention into its daily operations. The end result of the project will be an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary Management Plan that will outline pollution prevention goals and strategies.

This initiative is an important step on our hike. The Pollution Prevention Plan will provide strong footholds for the challenging climb to Vision 2020. The goals of the project, being coordinated by the Region's Environmental Services Department, include:

- **making sure our own 'house' is in order;**
- **looking at how the Region can influence pollution prevention initiatives through its regulatory authority; and**
- **sharing project results with other communities.**

Pollution prevention is expected to provide Hamilton-Wentworth with a further opportunity to become a world leader in creating a sustainable future for the community. The cost of the project will be \$510,000 over two years, shared equally by Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Energy, and the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth.

*For further information, please contact:* Beth Goodger at (905)546-2427, Fax:(905)546-4473



# Youth Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

As part of Environment and Economy Week in May, 1994 Hamilton-Wentworth's Planning and Development Department and the EcoWise Project from McMaster University organized a day long round table discussion involving 40 local high school students. Youth from the Hamilton, Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic, Halton Roman Catholic, Wentworth County School Boards, and

Hillfield-Strathallan College participated in the round table.

Divided into five groups based on the following topic areas: land use; transportation; social/health well being; water, air, and waste; and local economy, each group was asked to answer this question:

"If you could initiate only one project to set Hamilton-Wentworth on the trail to VISION 2020, what would that project be?"

The discussions were lively and resulted in some interesting suggestions which were presented to Regional Council for their consideration in development of the 1995 budget. A second round table discussion is being organized for February, 1995.

For further information, please contact: Mark Bekkering at (905)546-2195, Fax: 546-4364.

## Signposts on the Trail to Vision 2020

**Is Hamilton-Wentworth actually progressing towards its desired vision and goal of being a model sustainable community?**

Although there have been a number of positive actions, it is almost impossible to provide a definitive answer. There is a need to develop a system of targets and indicators for measuring the community's progress against Vision 2020. Once developed, citizens, political leaders, business, community groups and others, will be able to determine whether the decision moved us closer to our desired goals.

Started in the summer of 1994, the project **Signposts on the Trail to Vision 2020**, will involve the community in the development of a set of targets and indicators for measuring the Region's progress against Vision 2020. Both the process used to develop the indicators and the eventual indicators themselves, will hopefully motivate people into taking actions to move Hamilton-Wentworth towards the vision statement.

For example, VISION 2020 states, "to ensure the water quality in Hamilton Harbour, Lake Ontario, and other surface bodies is generally good, that the water is clear and that swimming is a safe activity". Indicators to identify whether this goal has been attained might be the creation of a water quality index to measure:

**the amount of wastewater treated; the quality of drinking water; and the number of annual closing of public beaches.**

When completed the indicators will be presented to the community in the form of a report card, identifying the current status of the indicators and the ways in which they can be influenced by individuals, organizations, local government, or the community as a whole. The report card and an assessment

of factors influencing the indicators will be presented at the next Annual Sustainable Community Day.

The Health of the Public Project, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, and the Environmental Health Programme at McMaster University, along with the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth, have all taken a leading role in this project.



For further information, please contact: Mary Ellen Scanlon at (905)546-4348, Fax:(905)546-4364.



# Finding the Trail to VISION 2020

## ON THE TRAIL TO VISION 2020

On Trail To VISION 2020 is a periodic publication, making up part of Hamilton-Wentworth's Sustainable Community Initiative and is intended to provide information on various Vision 2020 activities, research, events, and publications. If you have any comments or wish to be added to the Vision 2020 distribution list, please write to us at the following address:

**The Sustainable Community Initiative  
Regional Municipality of Hamilton Wentworth  
Planning and Development Department  
119 King St. West, 14th Floor  
P.O. Box 910  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
L8N 3V9**

**Fax: (905) 546-4364  
email: markb@hookup.net**

Every project described in this report is contributing to the Region's movement to the Sustainable Community of Vision 2020. Each fork in the road, every foothold, and paying close attention to the indicators will bring the Region closer and closer to its goal. Larger more costly projects will not move the Region ahead any faster than its smaller counterparts as it often only takes a tiny crevice or protruding rock to give a climber the support necessary to move up the most challenging parts of the hill. The goal has been identified and the trail is long. If Regional Departments and the community continue to work together the sustainable community of Vision 2020 will be attained before the year 2020.

## ISSUE TWO

Issue one of 'On the Trail to Vision 2020' focused on discussing and identifying some of the more interesting projects and initiatives either started or involving Regional Government. There are however, many other exciting projects which have been started by local businesses and community groups. These range from the development of new technologies, to changes in manufacturing processes, to the provision of a whole range of community based social support services. Unfortunately space did not allow for the inclusion of any of these many interesting activities.

Issue two of, On the Trail to Vision 2020, will be dedicated to presenting non-governmental activities that are helping Hamilton-Wentworth find the trail to Vision 2020. If you are involved in or know of any appropriate initiatives, please write to us at the mailing address listed to the left.



Source: Studio Magazine Vol.9 No.4 1991  
Douglas Fraser, Bozell Palmer Bonner

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